



For Immediate Release

January 17, 2018

Contact:

Robin Davis, Office of the Mayor, 614-645-2425 (office); 614-369-5613 (cell)

Mayor Ginther and City Council Announce Additional Funding for Safety Strategy

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther and Columbus City Council President Shannon G. Hardin announced \$2 million in additional funding for the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy. Half of the funds will be used to add a total of 30 additional recruits to the two police recruit classes already scheduled this year for a total of 100 new officers by the end of 2018 – the most police recruits the city has hired in five years. The other half of the new funding will be earmarked for non-law enforcement efforts toward fighting crime.

"Thanks to prudent fiscal management and a strong local economy, we will be able to add more police recruits this year, allowing police to put more resources into neighborhood safety strategies, as well as more resources to solve homicides and address gang-related violence," said Mayor Ginther. "In addition, we will be able to better support our officers with additional funding for health and safety initiatives in order to address the significant challenges we face."

"This Council believes in a Columbus where everyone can feel safe regardless of when or where they walk out their door," said Council President Hardin. "The announced funding strategy represents a balanced approach to community safety, and a commitment to do things differently to keep Columbus safe."

The Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy includes proven law enforcement initiatives such as Safe Streets bike patrol and a collaborative deterrence effort with the Franklin County Courts called Safe Neighborhoods. It also includes community-based programs to help in crime prevention and intervention, such as the Neighborhood Crisis Response and the CARE Coalition that addresses the trauma that families and neighbors experience because of violent crime.

The City is contributing \$500,000 toward the new police recruits and \$500,000 toward community efforts. These funds come from higher-than-projected earnings and savings in 2017.

City Council is also contributing \$500,000 toward the police recruits through an amendment to Mayor Ginther's general operating fund budget and \$500,000 from the carry-over funds from 2017.

###